

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-32 are pending herein.

I. Claim rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The USPTO respectfully rejects Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10, 17, 18, 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Mills et al. (US 2003/0035037) in view of Matsumoto et al. (US 2001/0052920).

Claims 1 and 17 are amended to include the limitation, “and to not light an irradiation element which corresponds to an ink jet opening which did not jet the ink.”

Thus, claims 1 and 17 include an irradiation controller that controls the irradiation element so as to not light an irradiation element which corresponds to an ink jet opening which did not jet the ink. This allows the irradiation section to achieve a long life, and reduces power consumption. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification, starting at page 5.

Mills et al. discloses the LED's 100 (paragraph [0058]) as an alternative to a conventional irradiation section, which irradiates energy within a wide wavelength range (200-400nm) and thus wastes up to 95% of the energy. Pulsed UV radiation from the LED's 100, can be conducted more efficiently because of the narrow wavelength range (365nm) used by the LED's 100.

However, as the Examiner respectfully notes on page 4 of the Office Action, Mills does not teach or suggest controlling lighting of (or not lighting) an irradiation element corresponding to an ink jet opening that jetted the ink, concerning a plurality of LED irradiation elements as presently claimed. That is, even though usage of an LED as an irradiation element is disclosed, Mills et al. does not teach or suggest controlling lighting of the irradiation element, much less controlling “the irradiation elements to light at least an irradiation element which corresponds to an ink jet opening which jetted the ink, and to not light an irradiation element which corresponds to an ink jet opening which did not jet the ink.”

Thus, Matsumoto et al. is cited by the UPSTO at page 4 of the Office Action for purportedly teaching:

“controlling the irradiation elements to light at least an irradiation element which corresponds to an ink jet opening, and changing an amount of irradiating light to the recording medium which corresponds to the ink jet opening depending upon an amount of the ink jetted by the ink jet opening.”

Referring to Matsumoto et al., there is disclosed a UV irradiation section. However, Matsumoto et al. does not teach or suggest providing a plurality of irradiation elements, nor does Matsumoto teach or suggest controlling “the irradiation elements to light at least an irradiation element which corresponds to an ink jet opening which jetted the ink, and to not light an irradiation element which corresponds to an ink jet opening which did not jet the ink” (emphasis added).

Thus, all of the elements of claims 1 and 17 are not taught or suggested by the combination of Mills et al. and Matsumoto et al., as required by 35 U.S.C. § 103 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness (see MPEP 706.02(j)). Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that the amended claims are allowable over the cited references. Since claims 2, 6, 8 and 10 depend from claim 1, and claims 18, 24, and 26 depend from claim 17, Applicant also respectfully asserts that these dependant claims are allowable over the cited references.

II. Conclusion.

Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

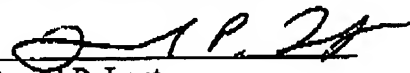
If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Please contact the undersigned for any reason. Applicants seek to cooperate with the Examiner including via telephone if convenient for the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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